

Reducing Floatable Debris in the Sound

Litter, debris, and trash floating in LIS coastal waters and washing up on LIS shorelines can be a nuisance to, or hazard for boaters, beach-goers, bathers, fishermen, and other recreational or commercial LIS users, and can harm wildlife and reduce aesthetic enjoyment of the Sound.

Strategy:

This CCMP priority area has two principal management actions: 1) controlling floatable debris from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and storm water sewers; and 2) increasing floatable debris cleanup efforts. There are a total of 14 action items in this category: 5 **Ongoing Programs**, and 9 **CCMP Actions**. In 1999, of the 5 **Ongoing Programs**, 4 are reported as **Fully Met/Substantive Progress**; 1 reported as **Partial Progress**. Of the 9 **CCMP Actions**, 6 are reported as **Completed, Substantive Progress**, or **Fully Met**; 3 are reported as **Not Initiated**.



Highlights:

- Efforts to control combined sewer overflows and improve stormwater management, described under **Pathogens**, are also helping to reduce the amount of litter reaching the Sound. Communities around the Sound are adopting a watershed management approach to controlling sources of pollution to the Sound, including point and nonpoint sources, CSOs, and land use practices. Many communities have formed watershed management committees or groups to work together in addressing environmental management problems that have no jurisdictional boundaries.
- In 1999, 1,264 volunteers from NYS removed 25,078 lbs of debris from the shoreline along the Sound. In Connecticut, over 598 volunteers removed over 6,680 pounds of trash from 23 miles of shoreline. There were fewer volunteers than in 1998 due to public concerns over mosquitos in the Fall 1999.
- Since 1991, over 18,650 storm drains have been stenciled with the message: **Don't Dump -- Drains to Long Island Sound**.
- In New York, over 3,330 drains have been stenciled with a bi-lingual (Spanish/English) **"Clean Streets = Clean Beaches"** slogan.
- The CT DEP is implementing the EPA Phase II Municipal Stormwater permit system. It is expected that 40 to 50 CT municipalities will be issued municipal general storm water permits.
- In December 1999 CTDEP released its Proposed Solid Waste Management Plan for the 21st Century for public comment. DEP plans hearings in early 2000 and will begin implementing the Plan in 2000.

SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS: FLOATABLE DEBRIS

1. CONTROLLING FLOATABLE DEBRIS FROM CSOs AND STORMWATER SEWERS (CCMP TABLE 38, P. 96)				
Ongoing Programs	Responsible Parties	Status ²	Description	Upcoming Action
F1-1. Continue implementation of long-term CSO abatement programs to manage or eliminate all CSO areas remaining in the Long Island Sound region.	CTDEP NYSDEC NYCDEP and local municipalities	Substantive Progress	See CSO program description in item P1-1, under the Pathogens section.	
F1-2. Control discharge of stormwater from industrial, construction, and municipal activities in accordance with EPA's national program regulations.	EPA NYSDEC CTDEP local municipalities	Partial Progress	<p>CTDEP's three general stormwater permits for industrial, construction, and commercial activities address floatable debris and now have more than 2,000 registrants.</p> <p>The City of New Rochelle has received grants from the State of New York to construct grit and floatable removal on storm sewer outlets (SSOs). In addition, NYSDEC has an administrative order against Westchester County to require construction of settling and floatable removal devices on two SSOs in the New Rochelle sewer district. The system will be designed to handle an approximate two year storm. The City of Larchmont is operating its floatable debris boom at the mouth of Pine Brook..</p>	The CT DEP is implementing the EPA Phase II Municipal Stormwater permit system. It is expected that 40 to 50 CT municipalities will be issued municipal general storm water permits.

2. INCREASING FLOATABLE DEBRIS CLEANUP EFFORTS (CCMP TABLE 39, P. 99)				
Ongoing Programs	Responsible Parties	Status ²	Description	Upcoming Action
F2-1. Continue to implement the <i>Pack It In/Pack It Out</i> anti-litter campaign.	CTDEP and the public	Fully Met	CTDEP's Parks Division sponsors the "Pack it in-Pack it out" anti-litter campaign, which has led to the elimination of all trash barrels at state parks, including state beaches, except at campground areas. A single trash collection site is provided, which includes a dumpster and marked recycling bins, for people who don't want to transport their trash home. The program has been very successful with no noticeable increase in litter at the parks and beaches.	
F2-2. The New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program has developed detailed short- and long-term floatable debris action plans for the New York-New Jersey Harbor.	USACOE NYSDEC NYCDEP NJDEP	Fully Met	The floatable debris action plan continues to be implemented. A Floatables Action Plan Assessment Report for the 1995-97 period was finalized by EPA Region II in March 1998.	

KEY

1) **Type:** Commitment, Recommendation

2) Status for dated actions: Complete; Ahead of Schedule, On Schedule, Behind Schedule, Partially Addressed, Not Initiated
Status for *Ongoing Programs* and ongoing *CCMP Actions*: Fully Met, Substantive Progress, Partial Progress, Discontinued.

2. INCREASING FLOATABLE DEBRIS CLEANUP EFFORTS (CCMP TABLE 39, P. 99)

Ongoing Programs	Responsible Parties	Status ²	Description	Upcoming Action
F2-3. National Beach Cleanup Program. As part of this program, annual cleanups of Long Island Sound shorelines have taken place since 1988. This program costs \$10,000 per year per state to coordinate and support volunteer efforts.	NYSDEC CT Sea Grant Program American Littoral Society Volunteers	Fully Met	In Connecticut, the cleanups are coordinated by CT Sea Grant. In New York, data on debris is compiled and stored by the American Littoral Society and NYSDEC. The beach cleanup includes land and underwater cleanups. In addition, various non-profit LIS groups have clean-ups on a regular basis with CTDEP assistance. In 1999, 1,264 volunteers from NYS removed 25,078 lbs of debris from the shoreline along the Sound. In Connecticut, 598 volunteers removed 6,680 pounds of trash from 23 miles of shoreline. The number of volunteers was reduced from 1998 due to public concerns over mosquitos in the Fall 1999.	The next event is scheduled for September 2000.

2. INCREASING FLOATABLE DEBRIS CLEANUP EFFORTS (CCMP TABLE 39, P. 99)

CCMP Action	Type ¹	Responsible Parties	When	Estimated Cost	Status ²	Description	Upcoming Action
F2-4. Continue to implement <i>Clean Streets/Clean Beaches</i> anti-litter campaign.	C	Coalition of public and private groups in New York and New Jersey	This action was initiated in 1992 and is ongoing.	\$100,000 grant from the EPA	Substantive Progress	NY Sea Grant developed stencils in English and Spanish with support from an EPA grant, and continues to distribute stencils in NY.	
F2-5. Conduct a demonstration project to encourage proper solid waste handling and recycling at five marinas.	C	NYSDEC	1991	\$71,000 grant from the EPA	Complete	Actions include recycling of materials and disposal of used fishing gear.	
F2-6. Expand involvement in <i>Coastweeks</i> program to include a second beach cleanup in the spring, prior to the beach season.	R	LISS Management Conference		\$20,000 per year	Not Initiated		

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CCMP Action	Type ¹	Responsible Parties	When	Estimated Cost	Status ²	Description	Upcoming Action
F2-7. Continue to coordinate volunteers to paint stenciled messages on storm drains, such as <i>Don't Dump - Drains to Long Island Sound</i>.	R	NY Sea Grant LISS Volunteers	Ongoing	\$5,000. See Public Involvement and Education	Fully Met	CTDEP has funded storm drain stenciling through \$319 funding and the CT License Plate Fund. More than 6,250 storm drains have been stenciled to date in Connecticut. NY Sea Grant distributed 92 stencils to 5 groups in 1999. Save the Sound, Inc. distributes stencils in Connecticut.	NY Sea Grant and Save the Sound, Inc. will continue the storm drain stenciling program. Possible storm drain stenciling is planned for the Vernon/Manchester and East Hartford area of the Hockanum River.
F2-8. Maintain clean beaches and minimize resuspension of debris back into Long Island Sound waters by: -Cleaning beaches in the evening to prevent resuspension overnight. -Using solid waste receptacles with lids instead of the open mesh type. -Providing recycling containers in convenient locations. -Using environmentally responsible containers for food and beverages at concession stands.	R	State and local governments	Ongoing	Varies with facility.	Substantive Progress	Many of the actions listed are being undertaken at local beaches throughout Long Island.	Continue program
F2-9. Distribute a directory of volunteer groups in the Long Island Sound watershed that work on projects and activities to reduce marine debris.	R	LISS		See Public Involvement and Education	Not Initiated		
F2-10. Encourage the public and manufacturers to promote recycling, use less packaging, and substitute products made from degradable material whenever possible.	R		Ongoing		Substantive Progress	The CTDEP proposed <i>Solid Waste Management Plan for the 21st Century</i> has set goals to reduce the quantity and toxicity of solid waste. Implementation includes developing packaging regulations to reduce the volume and weight of packaging and educating consumers and businesses to products with less toxicity and with recycled material content.	Finalize the Plan and implement most of the Plan elements by 2005.

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CCMP Action	Type ¹	Responsible Parties	When	Estimated Cost	Status ²	Description	Upcoming Action
F2-11. Encourage marina operators to accept responsibility for litter control and recycling.	R	NYSDEC CTDEP	Ongoing		Substantive Progress	NYSDEC's <i>Marina Management Guide</i> addresses a number of issues, including floatable debris. NYSDEC uses the <i>Guide</i> in its <i>Tidal Wetlands and Protection of Waters</i> permitting operations. CTDEP's <i>Marina Best Management Practices</i> manual addresses many potential pollution problems including litter.	.
F2-12. Require floatation materials that are resistant to decomposition and fragmentation.	R	NYSDEC Local Municipals			Not Initiated		

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